

# gay community news

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THE GAY WEEKLY 50¢

**I can only hope  
they'll turn that anger  
and frustration and madness  
into something positive  
so that hundreds will  
step forward . . .  
These are my strong requests,  
knowing that it could happen,  
hoping it doesn't.**

**—Harvey Milk**





# gay community news

December 16, 1978

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Vol. 6, No. 21

## 18 Arrested in Early Morning Hours

## Providence Police Raid

By Jim Marko

PROVIDENCE, RI — Vice squad detectives in this city have raided a gay bathhouse and arrested 18 men, including a 16 year old juvenile, on various narcotics and "sex" charges. The Dec. 5 morning raid came just two days after uniformed Providence police officers had visited the Club Baths downtown. That initial investigation was based on complaints from neighbors that patrons of the baths had harassed people outside the establishment, and that the baths had been in violation of state liquor laws.

According to Providence Vice Squad Inspector Mel Brown, the 4:30 a.m. raid by at least ten plainclothes officers, followed a specific charge that drugs were being sold on the premises.

Brown told *GCN* that the vice squad officers identified themselves and were admitted to the Club Baths by the man-

ager, Ivan Layton. The officers arrested an employee, Terence Dougherty, and charged him with possession of about 2 ounces of marijuana and an unspecified quantity of valium.

### Various Charges

Brown then said that the officers "witnessed a 16-year-old man performing an unnatural act on an older man." As officers arrested those two, Brown stated, "about 18 men started running around the place nude and officers saw two others having intercourse."

One of the men arrested and charged with loitering for prostitution was Edward R. McLaughlin, youth services coordinator for the Providence federal-jobs program. McLaughlin, who was assistant operations manager in charge of youth programs for the CETA program, was suspended without pay.

## Downtown Baths

Inspector Brown told *GCN* that the youth would be handled by family court officials. "He and the other men will probably be charged with various charges of prostitution, loitering for prostitution and solicitation."

Brown, who noted that all those arrested in the early morning raid are now either free on bail or were not formally charged, added that the investigation of the Providence Club Baths would continue.

### Action Condemned

The police action here has been condemned by a number of gay organizations. The National Gay Task Force office in the city has made a formal complaint to the office of Mayor Vincent Cianci.

Rev. Marge Ragona, of the Metropolitan Community Church in Providence, told *GCN* that the action is "obvious harassment" of the gay com-

munity. "The thing is, it is not just the Club Baths. A women's bar [in nearby Central Falls] has been hassled . . . the owner was threatened with arrest. It seems to be a statewide attitude of harassment against us," Ragona said.

Gays in Providence have suggested that the raid on the Club Baths was a political action. There is some belief that the newly re-elected Cianci administration wants to prove that it is "out to clean up the city." During the election campaign, the Cianci administration was attacked by opponents as being "soft on crime."

When asked by *GCN* if the raid on the Club Baths was ordered by the office of the mayor, or had been politically inspired, or part of a campaign against gays, Vice Squad Inspector Brown said, "Positively not."

## San Francisco Looking Ahead

## Thousands Across Country Mourn Harvey Milk

*The following story was written by Jim Marko as compiled from special reports by the staff and Harold Pickett, Ronnie Allen, Peter Martin and Kay Whitlock.*

SAN FRANCISCO — Thousands upon thousands of people across the country mourned the death of City Supervisor Harvey Milk who was shot and killed along with Mayor George Moscone in City Hall on November 27.

In San Francisco, some 4,000 people, including Gov. Jerry Brown, Jack Watson, an aide to President Carter and hundreds of elected city and state officials, gathered in the Opera House for a final tribute to Milk. On Saturday, December 2, the ashes of Harvey Milk were scattered into San Francisco Bay just beyond the Golden Gate Bridge. Thirty-five of Milk's close friends and associates were on a 100-foot-square rigger for the final tribute as requested by the slain supervisor.

For an hour Sunday afternoon, December 3, about 70 people gathered at the Arlington Street Church in Boston in a memorial service for Milk. The Rev. Robert Wheatly of the Boston Unitarian Universalist Gays and Lesbians gave a modest homily on the meaning of Milk's life. He spoke of the toil in the political vineyards, his work to defeat the anti-gay school worker's Proposition 6, and his poli-

tical audacity and forceful representation of the gay community.

John Lawrence, the national president of Integrity, told those at the Boston service that gays were facing a "martyrdom in the cause of gay civil rights." Mark Solomon, from the gay Jewish organization Am Tikvah, said a prayer for Milk and lit a 24-hour memorial candle at the church altar.

The Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force and the East Philadelphia Chapter of the National Organization for Women expressed shock at the "tragic and senseless murders" in San Francisco.

The Philadelphia organizations "re-affirmed the humanitarian ideals that were so much a part of the lives of Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Milk. These ideals help make life more hopeful, more decent, more just, for thousands of people . . . for women, for minorities, for the poor, for lesbians and gay men."

On Sunday, Dec. 3, despite rainy weather and the short notice of the event, some 250 people assembled in New York City's Sheridan Square for a candlelight vigil and a march to Metropolitan Duane Methodist Church for a "memorial protest" in honor of Harvey Milk.

Craig Rodwell, owner of the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop, spoke first, saying "Harvey was an atheist,



Harvey Milk

but I'm sure he'd forgive us for meeting here [in the church] tonight."

Rodwell, an intimate friend and lover of Milk when he lived in New York City, described the murdered supervisor as one "who loved to love, whether people, plants, or music."

Eleanor Cooper of Lesbian Feminist Liberation, and a spokesperson for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, expressed her "grief and anger at the murder of this proud gay man."

Cooper stated that Milk was "slain by a homophobic political opponent" and concluded that "homophobia kills." "Whether they [previous generations of lesbians and gay men] died in closets of suffocation or were shot in City Hall, we're proud they lived and we will carry forward."

After the hour service in New York, people joined hands in a large circle and sang a version of the civil rights song "We Shall Overcome." The song included such verses as "We are everywhere . . . today," and "We shall all come out . . . today."

In what seemed a somewhat inexplicable move, the District of Columbia City Council failed to adopt a resolution deploring the slayings of Milk and Moscone. The proposed resolution, at the request of Washington, D.C., gays, expressed sadness and called Milk "an effective voice for the many elements within his community, particularly lesbians and gay men." The resolution also called Milk a symbol of "contributions that gay citizens can make to the . . . community."

City Council member Willie J. Hardy objected to that language in the measure. He said he "resented the way it is written," suggesting that Milk may have also been an effective spokesperson for other members of the community. The resolution was withdrawn.

*Continued on Page 6*

## Michigan Law Would Protect Rights of Gays in Nursing Homes

LANSING, MI — Michigan may soon have a measure which specifically prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual preference. For the first time in its history, the legislature has passed such an act and sent it on to Governor William Milliken.

The bill (SB 659), which Gov. Milliken is expected to approve, provides that all nursing homes in Michigan must adopt policies regarding the rights of residents. Those policies must state that appropriate care will not be denied on the basis of sexual preference, marital status, sex and a number of other factors. Other rights in the bill include the right to medical record confidentiality, to privacy to the extent feasible, to receive mail unopened and to associate with

persons of one's own choice.

The bill was the result of committee hearings on abuses in nursing homes. A resident of one home had charged that his mail was being opened and censored by officials and staff at the home. The resident believed the action was being taken because of his homosexuality.

Committee members agreed that there were sufficient problems on the emotional level at homes, and the bill was drawn up.

According to Don Mager, project facilitator of the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR), no gay organizations worked for passage of the nursing home bill. As recommended by the bill's sponsors, MOHR

and other groups "sat quietly and let it go through," Mager told *GCN*.

Mager pointed out that the rights of gay seniors, "especially those on fixed and limited incomes, are often mentioned as areas of serious concern to the gay movement, but little concrete work is done to ensure these rights."

MOHR's Mager added that Michigan has now "set a model for other states" with the bill's passage. Mager added that the groundwork is now set to include rights protection in other pieces of legislation.

"As we have been told by legislators and legislative aides in the past, Michigan is not going to pass a gay rights measure or an amendment to the state civil rights act soon . . . so, the [nursing

home] legislation is helping us build for the future," Mager said.

Mager added: "When hearings begin on any gay rights bill or any effort at amending the civil rights act, we will have some precedents. . . . This is a very significant thing, even though it is not going to change the lives of many gay people overnight."

Commenting on the bill's passage, Robert Lundy, Policy Council Chair of MOHR, called the measure, "the wave of the future."

"In Michigan, successes will probably occur in specialized areas and will apply to those receiving public services, before a bill protecting employment in the private sector is passed," Lundy said.



# NEWS NOTES

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The specific issue of, say, gay rights, is not a national situation yet. But when you take a look at someone like the mass-mailing tycoon Richard Viguerie and the power of push button politics, you realize that the right wing can get officials elected. With the right wing, it gets more powerful the more successful it gets. It moves slowly but very effectively. Why, the American Nazi Party is dictating our foreign policy. They've got a request in now, using abortion as the wedge, to have 16 out of 26 states to hold a constitutional convention. That's insidious . . . I'm against anything that helps the right wing eat away at our human rights. And I advocate the right of people to live without oppression. I'm advocating the right to love and not be punished for it." — former Presidential aide Midge Costanza in the Nov. 3 issue of *The Sentinel*.

## SURVEYING LESBIANS

NEW YORK CITY — Rhonda Carlson, a student at the Graduate School of Social Work of the University of Texas and a member of the National Gay Task Force, is conducting a research survey to determine how lesbians define themselves and their community.

Carlson is in need of lesbians willing to complete a fairly long, very specific questionnaire. The survey and all correspondence will be kept strictly confidential, but a distillation of the results will appear in Carlson's master's thesis.

For further information or to request a questionnaire write Rhonda Carlson, 3014 Millmar Dr., Dallas, TX 75228.

## NORVAL MORRIS OUT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Carter's nominee to head the Justice Department's Law Enforcement Assistance Administration is expected to withdraw his name, according to *New Times*. The magazine cited an "alliance of the National Rifle Association, Anita Bryant adherents, and Senators Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) and Jesse Helms (R-N.C.)" as being responsible for the "torpedoing" of the nomination of Norval Morris, dean of the Chicago School of Law.

Morris had testified before congressional committees concerning his views favoring decriminalization of certain victimless crimes, such as gambling, drunkenness, prostitution, and other private sexual acts. He is author of the 1971 book, *An Honest Politician's Guide to Crime Control*. Sen. Helms wrote a letter to Carter accusing Morris with "abandonment of the moral standards of our country" although Morris said he would not impose his views upon the LEAA.

*New Times* predicted that Homer F. Broome, Jr., a Los Angeles police official recently confirmed as a deputy administrator at LEAA, would soon be nominated to replace Morris.

## BLACKMAILER SENTENCED

PORTLAND, OR — A Federal judge here has sentenced a Portland man to four years in prison for blackmailing a Louisiana attorney because he was gay. The judge, saying the victim suffered as much as one could, "short of physical pain," sentenced Roy Lee McDonald after his conviction on six counts of extortion.

McDonald was charged with blackmailing the attorney by threatening to reveal he was gay. That extortion was done by telephone.

## OUR BODIES, OURSELVES BANNED

SOMERVILLE, MA — The Boston Women's Health Collective reports that its book, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, has been banned by the Montana School District. The banning followed an attack on the book, which was given the Young Adult Best Book Award of 1976 by the American Library Association, by a right-wing, anti-ERA organization.

*Our Bodies, Ourselves* has sold two million copies and there are now some thirteen foreign editions available.

Members of the Health Collective, say they "find it ironic that, while [the book] is being criticized, dozens of truly pornographic magazines, readily available everywhere even to teenagers, go unmentioned."

The Collective is asking that people support the book and its concept when and where it is attacked. People are urged to contact the Collective at Box 192, W. Somerville, MA 02144.

## DOG DAY'S SONNY GETS WORK

NEW YORK CITY — John Wojtowicz, the Brooklyn man who tried to rob a bank to pay for his lover's sex change operation, has found a job in the city. The bank robbery attempt became the subject of the film "Dog Day Afternoon," which starred Al Pacino.

Wojtowicz told GCN in October that he was having a difficult time finding work because of his imprisonment [see GCN Vol. 6, No. 13].

He was sent to a halfway house last summer after his original sentence of 20 years was reduced to 15. The parole made him eligible for a job — although he could stay on parole only if he had a job.

Wojtowicz found a \$150 a week bookkeeping job with a social work agency last week. He told GCN in an interview in October, "I am a natural born leader and a fighter . . . I am what makes America great because I have the pioneer spirit."

## NGTF MEDIA DIALOGUE

NEW YORK CITY — The National Gay Task Force has announced plans for a second phase of its on-going national educational effort. A "National Week of Dialogue with the Media About Gay and Lesbian Concerns" has been scheduled for February 11-17.

NGTF says the program "is aimed at involving gay groups and individuals in educational exchange and personal dialogue with professionals in the media field such as broadcast station owners, news reporters, and staff writers and producers."

NGTF adds that the program "is motivated by the realization that the media is an extremely powerful force in American society in determining what gay and non-gay people come to know and believe about homosexuality, the gay life style, gay and lesbian rights, and gay-related news."

For further information on the Week of Dialogue, contact J.E. Myers, Group Officer, or Bill Doubleday, Education Officer, National Gay Task Force, 80 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011.

## WOMEN TEACHER SUIT

BRIDGEPORT, CT — Two women teachers who filed a sex discrimination suit contending that they were paid less than half the amount men were paid for coaching have been granted over \$4000 in back pay and legal fees.

A United States District Court Judge here told the Stratford Board of Education to pay the women \$1571 and \$1234 in back pay.

The judge also ordered the school board, in a suburb of Bridgeport, to pay \$1700 to the Connecticut Women's Educational and Legal Fund, Inc., which represented the teachers.

## CSWA PRESIDENT

LOS ANGELES — Long-time gay activist Terry (Spider) Luton has been elected president of the Christopher Street West Assn. Inc., the non-profit charitable organization which sponsors the Gay Pride Week observances in Hollywood every summer.

Luton, who has served on the CSW board every year since the first Gay Pride Parade in 1970, succeeds Terry Foster of Riverside, who has been president since September 1977. Luton takes office in January.

Meanwhile, CSW released a detailed financial report on its 1978 parade and carnival in Hollywood, showing gross income of \$22,145 and net proceeds of \$7,471, after expenses totaling \$14,674.

Major expense items were \$2,837 to rent a parking lot for the carnival and \$2,784 to provide carnival booths and a portable electric generator — offset by \$3,570 in rentals from carnival exhibitors and 50-cent admissions totaling \$6,056; that indicates a paid carnival attendance of just over 12,100 people. Sales of beer and wine came to \$10,496, against wholesale beer-wine costs of \$3,804. Gay Pride T-shirts and buttons cost \$1,665, bringing sales of \$1,742.

CSW also announced charitable donations of \$4,985 from its 1978 proceeds — \$3,000 to the Concerned Voters of California "No on 6" campaign, and \$1,000 to Parents and Friends of Gays, to help publish an attractive 8-page booklet dealing with gay rights and refuting myths about gay women and men.

California Human Rights Advocates, which maintains two full-time lobbyists in Sacramento, received \$535, while We Care, a muscular dystrophy gay fund, was given \$200 and the ACLU Gay Rights Chapter's Citizens Committee on Police Repression received \$200.

## NY SAYS NO TO CS

NEW YORK CITY — The *New Yorker* magazine has turned down an advertisement from the gay magazine *Christopher Street*. Chuck Ortleb, *Christopher Street*'s editor, told Gaysweek that the one inch advertisement was rejected by the *New Yorker*'s advertising manager because "our readers wouldn't be interested." Ortleb called the action "censorship" and non-recognition that the "typical reader of *Christopher Street* reads the *New Yorker*."

George Green, president of the *New Yorker*, told the *Soho Weekly News*, "We reject it because in our judgment the *New Yorker* wasn't the proper place for the publication of the advertisement. We decided this was an advertisement we'd rather not run."

## WOMEN AND CARTER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Carter has agreed to hold a full-scale meeting with members of the National Advisory Committee for Women. The meeting will center on concerns of women relating to the Administration's anti-inflation policies and the development of domestic policy issues.

The Committee cancelled a fifteen minute White House meeting with the President on Nov. 22. In a telephone conversation with Bella Abzug and Carmen Delgado Votaw, co-chairs of the Committee, the President expressed regret at the brief time set aside for the November meeting. He said he would meet with Committee members for an hour to discuss their concerns. Details of the meeting are being arranged.

## UPSTREAM FOR WOMEN

OTTAWA, Canada — *Upstream*, a two year old newspaper for women, has gone national. The newspaper will now be distributed in 16 Canadian cities.

The bilingual newspaper, in French and English, concentrates on items of interest to working women. It also devotes much space to the issue of violence against women.

## 6 OUSTED IMPROPERLY

BOISE, ID — A Federal judge here has ruled that the city improperly dismissed six women police employees after what he called an "abysmal" investigation into alleged lesbian activity.

The women, who have not denied their homosexuality, sued Boise for \$10 million. They contended in the class action suit that their constitutional rights of due process had been violated and that city officials had broken civil service rules by disallowing the women hearings.

Federal District Court Judge Ray McNichols issued a partial judgment this week saying that he could not understand "a city of this size [population 100,000], with the help it has available to it, going through such an operation in 1977."

The judge has not ordered the six women workers reinstated but he has ordered attorneys for the women and the city to prepare memoranda on damages.

The judge indicated that arguments on the women's request for an additional \$10 million for court costs will not be heard before the spring.

The six plaintiffs included two police officers, two dispatchers, a dispatch officer and an animal control officer. —

## GAA 'AWARDS' WRITER

NEW YORK CITY — The Gay Activists Alliance here has given its monthly "Pig" award to Kay Gardella, a television reviewer for the *New York Daily News*.

The GAA cited Gardella for her recent review of "A Question of Love," the ABC-TV drama concerning the efforts by a lesbian mother to retain custody of her child. [For a review of the film, see GCN Vol. 6, No. 20]

GAA found the following statements by Gardella "particularly enlightening":

"Homosexuality is being subliminally sold through television as 'sexual preference' or an 'alternative lifestyle.'"

"Of course, homosexuals have the same legal rights as anyone else, but the family continues to be the central organism of society, and television will ignore that truth at its peril."

GAA stated that regardless of the merit or lack of merit of the television film, "we think it is apparent to all open minded television viewers that there aren't enough television programs which present positive attitudes towards homosexuals, lesbians and the gay lifestyle."



# Lack of Funds Cited National Gay Switchboard Shuts Down

SAN FRANCISCO — The Gay National Educational Switchboard (GNES), the San Francisco-based network of support services, has discontinued its three WATS line services as of Dec. 1. The system had been in operation for two months and had taken more than 5000 calls during that time. The telephones were answered by 60 trained volunteers, who provided information and assistance to women and men throughout the nation.

The Switchboard, which received \$33,000 from the Human Rights Foundation for start-up costs, was unable to generate enough additional funds to meet expenses. Those expenses included monthly telephone bills of approximately \$5000 [see *GCN* Vol. 6, No. 19].

As explained in *GCN* recently, a nationwide fundraising drive had been delayed until after Nov. 7. Switchboard spokespeople noted, that until that time, monetary priority was given to the defeat of the anti-gay school workers Proposition 6 in California.

## The Need for Service

David Palmer, GNES Project Director, said this week that the long range goal of the Switchboard "has been to stimulate the expansion of support services for gay people in hundreds of communities nationwide."

"We have clearly documented the need for such services and will use that documentation to develop proposals for grants from both foundations and the government, so that the Switchboard can re-open next year. We are

now appealing to all those who were potential donors to the GNES to make generous contributions to local gay organizations," Palmer said.

Noting the murder of San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk [see other story], Palmer said that contributions to the Switchboard would be "particularly appropriate" if made in Milk's memory. Milk was a member of the GNES National Support Committee.

"Harvey spoke often of his concern for those in Middle America just coming to terms with their gayness. He saw the Switchboard as one means of combatting lies and misinformation. Harvey knew well that getting the truth out was expensive," Palmer said.

## Milk Stated Support

In one of his last interviews, Milk

called on people to contribute to the Switchboard. He stated that "... it's time to educate the gay community that it's no good having a lot of money if you're in jail because you're gay."

In October of this year, Milk stated, "The need for a network of services such as those the Gay National Educational Switchboard provides is obvious to me. Since my election, my office receives numerous calls and letters from across the country from people needing support and someone to talk to."

Callers to the Gay National Educational Switchboard are now automatically referred to the Pacific Center Switchboard in Berkeley, Calif. That service will be using the extensive resource files of the GNES.

# Boston Conference Addresses Difficult Topic of Man-Boy Love

by Chris Garten

BOSTON — On December 2, 150 boys, men and women from throughout the Northeast and from Canada met for a discussion of what is evidently the most taboo subject in North America: sex between male juveniles and male adults. The first known event of its kind here, the conference was organized by Tom Reeves of the Boston/Boise Committee in three weeks by word of mouth and xeroxed invitations. The stated purpose of the conference was to address the "practical problems of man-boy lovers rather than scholarly research available on the subject."

The invitation stated: "There are thousands of men and boys involved in sexual and other relationships related to sexual identity and life style, in the Boston area alone. . . . Many of the relationships are warm and loving, replacing absent support from hostile straight families and cause psychological, economic and political oppression to the men and boys. . . . We hope to open up these subjects to serious, thoughtful discussion. . . ."

Reeves discussed suffering that results from most people's ignorance of and negative moral and political attitudes toward the subject. He cited a recent survey that found 72% of Americans think sex between men and boys the "worst conceivable crime." He said that the Mass. Dept. of Welfare

has identified 110 men who are single, never-married foster parents. This agency, Reeves added, is systematically removing the children from these homes.

Reeves said he invited five categories of people to the conference: open man-boy lovers (five of whom present had reportedly been incarcerated, one for 17 years for having sex with a 15-year-old young man); lesbians and gay men and straight women and men concerned with the problems, but discreet enough, said Reeves, not to endanger the privacy of any of the open man-boy lovers; lawyers involved with man-boy love cases; social service workers and "mental health professionals" who deal with man-boy problems; and clergy.

Of the law, psychiatry, and religion, Reeves noted that since these are the three "official" arms of the system which oppress man-boy lovers, he wanted their representatives to learn more about the subject from boy lovers themselves.

The day consisted of three, two-hour long panel workshops. The first, "Psychological Aspects of Man-Boy Love," was led by Dr. Richard Pillard, Director of Psycho-Pharmacology at Boston University. Dr. Pillard told of a relationship between an 11-year-old boy and a man who was close to the boy's mother. When the mother discovered the relationship, the man simply left.

Dr. Pillard said the fact that no charges were involved saved everyone, especially the boy, who, said Pillard, would have been harmed by any court interference.

The panel members made the observations that in many cultures sex, as well as child sex, is considered healthy, allowing for beneficial ties between men and boys. Reeves said that since he came out as a boy lover about a year ago, he has been contacted by over 500 men saying they too were boy lovers.

Nick Kelly, a 16-year-old, told the conference, "I want you to know, I don't think anyone should care if I want to have a relationship with an older man."

In response to a question about men who might exploit children, conference organizer Reeves noted psychological, rather than age, maturity issues, and advised that the younger the boy, the more protection he needed. Parents and social workers, he said, often harm children. In Reeves' stated experience, man-boy relationships do not alter the boy's sexual orientation, but may change his life style.

New York activist and writer David Thorstad began the second workshop, "Ethics and Politics of Man-Boy Love." "Children in this society have no rights whatsoever, particularly over use of their bodies," Thorstad said.

Don, a social service worker with a religious organization, said he would

be fired immediately if his employer had discovered he had been in attendance at the conference. He outlined some problems he has experienced in 10 years of boy-love.

Richie, a young man on the panel, said he started "looking for men" when he was nine years old. He noted that his movie theatre hustling was the only way he knew to have sex with men. "Men had something I didn't have, experience and knowledge on many levels. Now I'm attracted to boys younger than myself. We should teach boys to reject Judeo-Christian ethics," Richie said. He pointed to the clergy on the panel, adding, "Your preaching is oppressing us as gays."

Ed Mede, one of the defendants in the so-called "Revere Case" in which a number of men are accused of having sex with minors, told the panel he could not understand why the clergy assumes all people are Christian. "I am a free-loving, gay Buddhist," Mede said. "I am a lovable guy. If society really wants to indict the child molesters, they should go after the drug companies and Wall Street, which represent real dangers to young men."

The final workshop on the law, subtitled "Age of Consent and Sexual Rights of Minors and Adults," began with Boston/Boise Committee counsel John Ward's quoting activist Flo Kennedy, "Nobody ever died from a blow-job." *Continued on Page 13*

# Rights Bills Filed for Next Session of Massachusetts Legislature

By David Brill

BOSTON — The annual gay rights bills are among the several thousand pieces of legislation filed Wednesday with the House Clerk for the 1979 session of the Massachusetts Legislature. This is the seventh year that the Legislature has considered the issue of gay rights.

Rep. Barney Frank filed the legislative package on behalf of himself and 26 other legislators from across the state, as well as a half-dozen other organizations. The Massachusetts Caucus for Gay Legislation will coordinate this year's lobbying effort as it has in the past.

## Three Bills

The first bill, which is identical to legislation filed in the past three sessions, is the legislative enactment of the Supreme Judicial Court's actions in the *Balthazar* (1974) and *Scagliotti* (1977) decisions. In essence, it provides for criminal sanctions only against sexual behavior involving adults when the sex acts are either in public or committed by force. Private, consensual acts of adults — whether homosexual or heterosexual — would no longer be criminal.

The second bill concerns public employment discrimination. Entitled "An Act Defining the Right to Work on An Equal Basis in Public Employment," (a new title from previous years), it offers anti-discrimination provisions in civil service (state and municipal) employment policies. It is this narrow piece of legislation which has gone the furthest in prior years.

The final bill expands the charter of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination to include the term "sexual and affectional preference" wherever race, religion, national ancestry, etc., now currently appear. This would protect gays in housing, employment, public accommodations, credit, and the sale of insurance.

A major difference between this year's anti-discrimination bills and those of prior years is the use of the term "sexual or affectional preference" instead of "sexual orientation" or "sexual preference." The new wording was developed in light of municipal anti-discrimination ordinances enacted in other jurisdictions using the same term. The point has been that some gays are not discrimin-

ated against for committing sexual acts, but merely for their affectional preferences.

## Prospects for Passage

The Legislature, particularly the House, is expected to be quite different in the 1979 session than it was in prior years. The House has been reduced in size from 240 to 160 members, something which will probably tend to make its members less parochial. With re-districting's intrafighting now behind it, the House is also expected to be somewhat less reactionary than it was last year, when many legislators in tough re-election fights actually reversed their votes on gay rights.

Two of the most vociferous gay rights opponents, Reps. Thomas Lopes and Edward Coury (both Democrats from New Bedford) were defeated in this year's elections, although some of the most memorable opponents — Rep. Marie Howe (D-Somerville) and Rep. Philip Shea (D-Lowell) — remain. Howe, in fact, engaged in a personal attack on a gay lobbyist last Monday when that person merely said hello; it was unsurprising behavior for a legislator who was once arrested for

biting a police officer's finger.

The Senate will probably be more conservative, however, with the absence of Senate President Kevin B. Harrington (D-Salem) and Ways & Means Chairperson James A. Kelly (D-Oxford). The new Senate president, Sen. William M. Bulger (D-South Boston), is an arch-conservative who has consistently voted against gay civil rights, although gay lobbyists are retaining some hope that he could be influenced by the vast numbers of gay constituents he has in his district, which includes Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and Allston.

## The New Governor

This year's most concerted gay effort, however, may not be in the legislature, but in the governor's office. Gov.-elect Edward J. King, through a spokesperson, told *GCN* last month that he supported equal opportunity for all regardless of sexual preference. Some pro-King campaign literature, though, attacked his Republican opponent for supporting gay rights. Outgoing Rep. Elaine Noble played an active role in King's campaign, and

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Solvency  
in  
'78



15,000  
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13,000  
12,000

The above thermometer will weekly show GCN's progress towards solvency in 1978. The main source of additional income will be generated by a series of benefits. You can contribute simply by attending. If you are unable to attend or wish to make a larger donation we are also encouraging people to send contributions to:

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FORUM

We Are All Gays

By Doug Ireland

When they came for the trade unionists, I wasn't one; when they came for the Jews, I wasn't a Jew; and when they came for me, it was too late.

Pastor Martin Niemoller

Harvey Milk was not the only leader of San Francisco's gay community who was worried about violence. Any homosexual who lived through the campaign of hate on behalf of the anti-gay Proposition 6 had good reason to be afraid. It was, after all, just after Anita Bryant nailed us to her cross down in Dade County one year ago that a gang of young toughs stabbed a San Francisco faggot to death while shouting, "This one's for Anita." The Briggs witch hunt did more than deny us our civil rights: It gave legitimacy to the *idea* of a campaign of terror against homosexuals.

What Harvey Milk had been saying to his friends in the weeks since the election was a simple, obvious truth: The significance of the Briggs Initiative was not that it was defeated, but that so many voted *for* it. And now that hatred, unleashed, has assassinated the man who saw violence coming, claiming as well Mayor George Moscone, as good a friend as gay people have had in this country.

"The subject of homosexuality is very ordinary," says the lesbian poet Judy Grahn, "It's the question of homophobia that makes everybody angry." And no matter what immediate derangement impelled the hand that pulled the trigger, Harvey Milk was killed by the disease of homophobia.

The genocidal symbolism of Milk's slaughter by Dan White is not lost to the gays of San Francisco. Dan White was their Matty Troy: an ex-cop who once had supported gay civil rights until he discovered that fag-baiting was a more profitable political course. His election as Supervisor was achieved by a know-nothing appeal to the meanest impulses of his frustrated working class constituents. And the violent tonalities of his anti-gay rhetoric led him to clash frequently with Supervisor Milk, the most prominent gay elected official in the country to win office without hiding his affectional preference in the closet.

COMMUNITY VOICES

GCN welcomes letters to Community Voices. If at all possible, your letters should be typed and double-spaced. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld on request. Letters should be addressed to Community Voices, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

an education,  
of sorts

Dear GCN,

For several years a very attractive young man has worked at the desk next to me. Jack is into weightlifting and jogging. Recently he ran a marathon and this summer won our office tennis tournament.

Jack boasted a heavy band wedding ring. Like others in the office, I supposed such an eligible man was married and probably had a family.

After the rumpus caused by that religious bigot in Miami and the terrible campaign by that ignorant senator in California, everyone in our office began discussing gay people. One day, in an intimate conversation, Jack informed me that he was gay. At first I thought he was joking. But later he told me and others in the office that he had always been gay and was proud to admit it.

Two weeks before Thanksgiving Day, I invited Jack to have dinner with my husband and me as we were having a small party.

As always we told our single friends to bring a date. I asked my husband what we should do about Jack. His reply was that we always trusted our friends to make a good choice, sight unseen, so why shouldn't we trust our gay guest to exercise the same good judgment?

A few minutes before dinner, my husband answered the bell and ushered in Jack and a very handsome, distinguished, well-groomed man about twenty years older than Jack. *They are lovers*, and have lived together for eight years.

They mixed in with other guests as both were well-informed in current events and sports.

It turned out that Jack's lover had been a flier in the U.S. Air Force, had two college degrees and is a highly respected engineer whom we have seen on T.V. in the last few months.

The party went off with a bang! Everyone had fun including our two gay friends who really had more to offer than many of our straight friends. Several friends, both male and female, have phoned since the party to ask who the enjoyable men were and why hadn't we invited them before.

My husband and I have found out that gay people are just like everyone else. We sincerely hope other straight people will learn this lesson.

Lovingly yours,  
Molly O'Brien  
South Boston, MA

for the record

Editors:

You appear to have a somewhat lopsided picture of politics etc. in California.

Sixty percent of our population is in Southern California. Which means that the bulk of the vote which went to turn down Proposition 6 came from the Los Angeles County, Orange County and San Diego areas. More complete breakdowns are not available to me, but I suspect that the vote in the rural counties — and the northern part of the state is predominantly rural in nature — was not as much in our favor.

I do not wish to detract from the 75% vote in the city of San Francisco, but the fact remains that the City (which I dearly love, so this remark is not made in pique) has 600,000 residents, while Los Angeles County has something more than 6,000,000 or more than ten times that amount. Thus, the lesser 59% recorded for Los Angeles unquestionably had more effect on the final totals.

On top of this, the probability is that most of the money raised in Southern California, and the public relations firm (Mixner & Scott) which was charged with the basic responsibility for the media, advertising and political aspects of the campaign (it was no accident that Reagan and Brown came out in our favor) is a Southern California firm.

Despite this, you datelined your story "San Francisco" and devoted almost five column inches to San Francisco with only a little less than an inch to Los Angeles.

This, I submit, is bad reporting. There were a couple of headliners in San Francisco (Matlovich and Berner) but the bulk of the work which produced the results was done down here. Not only was your coverage lopsided (bad reporting), but it was unfair as well. Your throwaway line (In Los Angeles the victory was much the same) will leave readers with the impression that L.A. is a backwater, which it is not. Dateline the story wherever you want, but let the story provide statewide rather than lopsided coverage.

Sincerely,  
Russell Hunter  
Los Angeles, CA

In times of social and economic dislocation, minorities are easy scapegoats for people's fear and frustration. We homosexuals know all too well how campaigns of bigotry can lead to genocide: at least half a million gays burned in Adolf Hitler's ovens. The Jews had their yellow Star of David. The political prisoners in Hitler's camps, a Red Triangle. The homosexuals, rounded up as a class, wore a Pink Triangle as they waited to go into the furnaces.

The media, of course, will ignore this large meaning of the San Francisco tragedy. CBS set the general tone on Monday night in a snide analysis of Milk by Richard Threlkeld dripping with homophobia. Threlkeld termed him "admittedly" gay and explained his election with the comment that San Francisco politics has always been "eccentric."

Homophobia is a disease that, like anti-Semitism, is also a political movement. Dan O'Horgan, the new executive director of the Democratic National Committee, recently told me that the three issues which produce the most money from right-wing and Republican fundraising mailings are guns, gays and abortions. It's time for that Pastor Neimoller quote again.

When we homosexuals express our anger, it is considered hysterical or, at best, uncivilized. We must unleash our anger, we homosexuals, and liberate ourselves from coded speech that hides our true understanding of this culture. In the words of the gay German filmmaker Rosa von Praunheim, it is not the homosexual who is perverse, but the society in which he lives.

The darker impulses of the spirit have been unleashed here, in New York City, with the seventh defeat in seven years of our civil rights. At the demonstrations after the bill's defeat, police harassment, verbal and physical, of gays and their supporters was rampant. Even Councilmember Ruth Messinger was manhandled. The blood from the beatings of gays in the Central Park Ramble this summer is hardly dry. And on 53 Street the other night, fresh blood flowed from the heads of young homosexual prostitutes who were needlessly eaten by our city's police.

This is the lesson to learn from the assassination of Harvey Milk (whom *our* mayor did not see fit to mention in his statement after the shootings). As James Baldwin and the black intellectuals told Attorney General Robert Kennedy in 1962: "Don't tell me not to be angry. My people are *dying*."

from the Soho News

prejudice no guide

Dear GCN:

Prior to offering a criticism, I must compliment your paper, which almost always is a communication that maintains excellent standards under oftentimes incredibly adverse circumstances.

In reference to your November 25, 1978 issue, and the article entitled "Out of the Closets & Into the Booths", it was most disappointing to read of the motto "let your prejudices be your guide". Though this is the attitude of the average voter, we as gay people are not average. It is this prejudicial thought process that we are trying so desperately to eliminate.

I don't believe that we can afford to use such rhetoric if we are to truly move forward. Within the confines of an already oppressive and oftentimes prejudicial society, it is important that we avoid these bad habits ourselves.

Sincerely,  
David G. Bryant  
San Francisco, CA

P.S. No relation to Anita.

ahead of its time

Dear GCN,

Congratulations to the people who brought together for the first time the conference on Man/Boy Love and the Age of Consent! Ironically, and perhaps unknown to any other participant, the conference took place 100 years after the publication of a remarkable (for its time) book: *Ueber Geschlechtsfreiheit* (On Sexual Freedom), by Dr. Roderick Hellmann, Berlin, 1878. The basic principles of this book, which is subtitled 'A philosophical essay toward the raising of human happiness,' were echoed at the conference. For example, we find on pages 221-222: "As soon as puberty has appeared, the sexual parts may be engaged in an appropriate amount of activity, and persons of both sexes are from then on to be allowed to enjoy any kind of sexual pleasure, so long as, first, health is not harmed, second, the sexual pleasure is non-reproductive, and third, the participating persons consent."

The whole book is very progressive for its time. Where else, for example, does one find in the literature of the 19th century not only a description of the appearance and odor of semen, but even of its taste, which is, "according to some, of a sharp, bitter taste, and to others, of a taste which is reminiscent of thickish oatmeal gruel and is by no means unpleasant" (p.179)?

I have been unable to further identify the author of this book and would welcome any information. Please write to me at: 33 Huxley Avenue, Providence, RI 02908.

Hubert Kennedy  
Providence, RI



# SPEAKING OUT

## In Memoriam

By John Paul Hudson

As the gay community of this country mourns the slaying of San Francisco Board of Supervisors member Harvey Milk — allegedly by an avowed homoeroti-phobe whose vote against the liberal gay rights legislation in Gaydom's Queen City was the sole opposition among Board members last year — it is important to mourn our brother as he was. Not as the straight press and the straight-oriented commercial gay press have described or will describe him. Not *just* as a "liberal Democrat (who) campaigned," according to the *New York Times* (Nov. 27), "on a broad platform that embraced expanded child care facilities, free municipal transportation, low-rent housing and a civilian police-review board, rather than (on) the issue of homosexual rights." Because many dykes and faggots from the Bay Area to the Ultimate Island of Manhattan remember feisty Harvey otherwise, and recall the substance of his three campaigns to become part of the governing board in San Francisco as being gay issue-oriented all the way!

We also know Harvey identified himself as a "left-winger," and that, too, ought to be remembered by those who would claim him as "one of us." For the hysterical, homoerotophobic ire which has been building up, in the form of rejection via referenda, as well as in acts of violence against individuals (Robert Hillsborough in San Francisco, Richard Heakin in Tucson, in '77), is principally focused now on gay radicals, socialists, communists, prison activists, and other not-so-easily-categorized mavericks of the Lavender Left. These present-day whipping boys are our true, risk-taking heroes and heroines, and they deserve their full recognition and honor. The tidy Gaycrats, conformists and ostensibly comfortable Closet Queens of our land do not generally arouse the same kind of concentrated fear and loathing as do those who are blatant, flagrant, and underdog-defending — as was Harvey Milk. We who applauded his efforts to introduce his then lover to the audience when the Board was sworn in, after having watched him tenaciously campaign for office as an admitted gaymale from 1975 onward, also recall that Harvey was *not* the choice of the Northern California self-proclaimed gay power-brokers — David Goodstein, publisher of *The Advocate*; politico Jim Foster, the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, all part of the national Gaycrat and Gay Capitalist axis that includes Seattle's Dorian Group, the New York Gay Task Force, ex-Massachusetts State Senator Elaine Noble, and other well-known Gay Civil Rights accommodationists. Rather, in '77, Goodstein and Company supported "cautious, careful" (his own words) lawyer Rick Stokes (who so poignantly revealed the details of his incarceration for mental illness in a moving segment of the gay documentary, *Word Is Out*). After Harvey's election, however, Goodstein hopped on the Milkwagon — in the "Great American Tradition" of about-facing when the campaign dust has settled.

Contacts in San Francisco insist that Harvey did not accept the Goodstein courtship, but remained "true to the persons and ideals that elected him" — a remarkable feat in itself, as successful vote collectors are notoriously susceptible to the time-honored prerogative of spoils gathering.

Once a Wall Street financial analyst, Harvey at the time of his big win owned a Castro Street camera store, and described himself as something quite other than a confirmed Gay Capitalist in an interview appearing in the *Los Angeles Times* just before his historic victory (Nov. 1, 1977). He said:

"We don't want sympathetic liberals, we want gays to represent gays. Alice (B. Toklas Democratic Club) is controlled by Jim Foster, but the vote can't be delivered. There are gay capitalists and gay socialists. I represent the gay street people, the 14-year-old runaway kid from San Antonio. They go to the bars because the churches are hostile. They need hope. A piece of the pie. I'm a left-winger, a street person. Most gays are politically conservative. All the gay money is still supporting the Republicans except on the gayness thing, so I say, 'Gay for Gay.' That's my issue. That's the big one."

I wrote to Harvey to congratulate him on the way he got himself elected. At the same time I disagreed with his evaluation of "most gays (as) politically conservative." I insisted that they are "apolitical, and for two reasons." The first was that they had been made to feel outside the electoral process because, as office seekers, a homosexualist has traditionally been obliged to hide his/her orientation — Adlai Stevenson being the most noted example — and, as voters, because of their criminal status within the society, they feel a sense of being disenfranchised anyway. They are not an "ethnic" group with has systematically been appealed to, outside San Francisco where there is thought to be an unusually high percentage of them in the population. So, in most places, they just don't take to politics at all, most of them.

The second reason I gave now has chilling validity: "They are afraid of reprisals if they parallel their unorthodox, controversial sexual and affectional lives with unorthodox, controversial political alignment. A commie queer has to watch out more carefully for his actual physical safety than the person who is hiding behind a big corporation desk and who is registered as a Democrat or Republican."

Then I concluded with, "Gays, once politicized, are potentially subversive as hell, Harvey, and the outpouring following the Dade County defeat (the first one, having occurred that previous June) shows that, riled because they'd become well-informed about their oppression, for a change, they could quickly grow thoroughly disillusioned with the system. Disillusionment can result in politicization as easily as it can in apathy and indifference. It is the job of strategically placed persons like yourself to appeal to discontent, to employ anti-gay events toward the arousal of discontent and, above all, to stay discontented yourself. A complacent gay office-holder is no more useful to the advancement of Gay Liberation than a straight one. San Francisco might as well have Stokes — who said in the *Times* piece, you will recall, 'I'm a professional man who happens to be gay' — meaning that gayness comes second to him, and that's trouble. Dykes and fags are where

"Speaking Out" is the column designed for the benefit of GCN readers. It is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your thoughts, ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Speaking Out, GCN, 22 Bromfield St., Boston, MA 02108.

they are because they refuse to recognize that their homosexual drive is a central force that affects every pore of their being, every decision, and every attitude. You seem to know it and are willing to say it, and many of us pray you won't lose sight of it."

Left-winger Harvey Milk did not forget. Anticipating possible assassination of a boat-rocking gaymale (as have many of us who have faced large crowds out in the open from a gay podium, or who have taken an unpopular stand), he left a recorded message to be released in such event. It urged, in part, "I can only hope that . . . hundreds will step forward, so that gay doctors will come out, the gay lawyers, gay judges, gay bankers, gay architects. I hope that every professional would just say, 'Enough!', come forward and tell everybody, wear a sign, let the world know. Maybe that will help."

Harvey realized that the gay bourgeoisie — which "has so much to lose" materially by being found out or declaring — is the key to helping create a safer climate in which the gay poor can come out without losing jobs and shelters. Then the celebrity and upperclass gays might follow suit — instead of leading the way as one might expect them to do because of their advantaged positions. (The coming out of these is not as keenly sought by Gay Liberationists as it once was; the day of relying on "validation" of gayness by prominent people seems over, seeing how ineffective the Sheridan Square star billboard campaign in behalf of New York's Intro 384 was this fall, and considering how inconsequential have been the "endorsements" of our culture by a host of major and minor publicity-seeking luminaries published in *The Advocate* over the past five years. "Validation" must come dyke by dyke and fag by fag, first inside each head and heart; support in this process by key professional people can indeed be helpful. For one thing, they control a lot of money, and they have community clout that can affect rank-and-file homosexualists close to home.) Harvey obviously did not take *The Advocate* tack which in its coast-to-coast campaign for subscribers has been "Now you can come out without having to leave the house." Nor was he a moderate like the soft-spoken Task Force folks, who count on the flow of money from ever-closeted professionals in order to meet their quarter-of-a-million-dollars annual budget. Novelist Herb Gold referred (*L.A. Times*, again) to Harvey as a "hard-liner" and "right on." Old-timey, revolutionary-sounding words, but appropriate.

Considering the Harvey Milk record, his expressed political views, and his popularity among gay left-wingers in the Bay Area, it would be fitting therefore to don not a black band, but lavender and red; to encourage, in Harvey's memory, the daring, indomitable, creative assailants of the establishment who remain behind, anxious now after his shocking murder and perhaps faltering in their resolve to change the system peacefully inside-out. If Harvey is enshrined falsely as a member of the property party without qualification, as another patsy of the powerarchy, his martyrdom will have been entirely misunderstood, and it will come to be misused by those who would maintain the status quo. That status quo, which includes terrorism, violent homoerotophobia, and the lust for genocide against homosexualists, will continue as long as persons with rightist leanings speak for gays and the memory of those who weren't rightist at all is appropriated to be lionized as such by those who wish they had been!

## Media Lies

By Tim Cwiek

Gays must learn from some of the slanted journalism that has been directed against San Francisco recently.

First the Guyana murders, and one national news network calls in the ACLU to question that group about the massacre. They bait the ACLU representative into saying arbitrary investigations into all organized religions would be a breach of civil liberties. Just the thing, I'm sure, that redneck people flushed with rage against the People's Temple, want to hear in order to blame those pinko-liberal-commies.

Then comes the horrifying dual-slayings of George Moscone and Harvey Milk. Once again some columnists seek to blame that city of "misfits" for the tragic events — writing about the "kooks, fruits and nuts" that freely roam the liberal town. I can just hear the right-wingers now. "See, that's what they get for letting Sodom and Gomorrah break loose."

I was particularly angered because NBC news did not even announce that Milk was gay or a supporter of gay-rights during their broadcast the evening of his death, although they outlined Moscone's political career. They also interviewed a San Franciscan who said, "Yes, this city is filled with lots of sick people and you have to be careful, but . . ." The station cut him off. I wonder what NBC didn't want us to hear?

NBC did not mention that the 40,000 paraders who mourned the killings were organized by gays, or that it was two gay men who placed the much-photographed wreath on the steps of city Hall mourning Milk's passing.

So it is the same old story of gays being blamed for heterosexual insanities. They want to make us look like the bad guys, when it is *their* hate that causes violence. Dan White was no card-carrying ACLU member. Gay people have not perpetuated the violence that has continually plagued us. And we cannot let the media tell us differently.

## COMMUNITY VOICES cont.

### not in vain

Editor:

I do not want Harvey Milk to have died in vain. He was my brother and friend. Harvey's example can be an impetus to others to educate this world once and for all as to who we gay folks are. Neither non-Gay newspapers in San Francisco nor television stations understood this week's events from a gay person's point of view. To us it was not simply "a rational man who snapped" or a "casualty of pressure".

Some comments need to be made:

1. It was a heterosexual family man, the unemotional, all American boy (White) who murdered Gay activist/humanist (Milk) and the staunch supporter and defender of Gay rights (Moscone).
2. Dan White hated Gay people. He learned from society that it is OK to hate and, if necessary, kill Gays. This sick mentality (homo-phobia) pervades all of America and much of

this planet. It is not some freaky San Francisco incident as some would imply.

3. Truth about the American Gay Community is severely censored or ignored by most media and political leaders.

4. The killer, White studied to be a trained killer in two notoriously homophobic institutions, the U.S. military and the police department. The lover, Milk, on the other hand, was dishonorably discharged from the Navy for being Gay.

5. War (people killing people) or murder (Dan White butchering Harvey Milk) are the exact opposites of people loving other people which is what Lesbians and Gay Men do. WHY IS OUR LOVE AGAINST THE LAW?

6. America NEEDS what the Gay Community has to teach.

Sincerely,  
Satya Dov ben Chaim  
San Francisco, CA



# Harvey Milk

As the nation mourned the loss of both Milk and Moscone, the city of San Francisco was slowly pulling itself together in the wake of the tragedy.

Dianne Feinstein was selected by the Board of Supervisors as mayor. She will serve in the office until the end of next year. Feinstein pledged to work for the "emotional reconstruction" of the city. Feinstein said she would begin screening candidates for appointment to the board to replace Milk and herself.

## Milk's Replacement

Mayor Feinstein has consistently said that she would appoint a gay to replace Milk. Jim Rivaldo, a close friend and associate of Milk, who appointed Rivaldo to a state commission, told GCN, "One of the main orders of business is to make sure that his successor has the same general philosophy in gay politics and politics in general."

"We want to make sure the person is attuned to Harvey's philosophy and will carry on the work he was doing

and the bridges he was building," Rivaldo said.

GCN has learned that Mayor Feinstein will probably name Ann Kronenberg, a lesbian and administrative aide to Milk, to fill out his term. Kronenberg was one of four candidates suggested by Milk in an unusual tape recording he left in case of his assassination (see box).

Meanwhile, Mayor Feinstein is expected to name Don Horanzy to fill the board seat formerly held by Dan White. White awaits arraignment for the murders of Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone.

The former city supervisor has reportedly said his mind was "sort of blank" about the killings with which he is charged.

When told that Moscone and Milk were dead, White reportedly told investigators, "My God, how awful." White purportedly told investigators he has only a hazy recollection of the moments before the fatal shootings occurred at City Hall.

*Continued from Page 1*

# Milk's Tape: 'Come Out'

SAN FRANCISCO — In a remarkable recorded message predicting that he might be assassinated, Harvey Milk urged his supporters and all gay people to channel their anger at his killing into constructive pursuits.

Milk, who was slain along with San Francisco Mayor George Moscone on Monday, Nov. 27, also urged gays to come out. A transcript of the message was released by a friend last week. The tape was made in November, 1977:

"I know that when a person is assassinated after they have achieved victory, there are several tendencies. One is to have some people go crazy in the streets, angry and frustrated, and the other is to have a big show and splash,

a great service. Naturally, I want neither.

"I cannot prevent anybody from getting angry or mad or frustrated. I can only hope they'll turn that anger and frustration and madness into something positive, so that hundreds will step forward, so that gay doctors will come out, the gay lawyers, gay judges, gay bankers, gay architects. I hope that every professional gay would say, 'enough,' and come forward and tell everybody, wear a sign, let the world know. Maybe that will help. These are my strong requests, knowing that it could happen, hoping that it doesn't . . . and if it does, I think I've already achieved something. I think it's been worth it."

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## Mormons and Episcopalians Take Different Steps on Ministry

BOSTON — Gays in religion experienced both a major advancement and a setback in their positions recently. While the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis resolved in its annual convention to call upon that church's leadership not to discriminate against gays who present themselves for ministry, the high council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) excommunicated the pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Boise, Idaho.

The action of the 130 delegates to the convention of the diocese of Indianapolis passed the resolution "Sexuality and Ordination," stating that homosexuality should not be a cause for preventing candidates' access to the priesthood. The resolution located sexuality among many factors that must be considered in assessing a candidate's appropriateness for ministry.

The resolution received support from the Bishop of the diocese of Indianapolis, Edward W. Jones, who stated that it "probably won't entirely please those who wanted prohibition against ordaining homosexual persons, nor will it please those who seek a

statement affirming homosexual lifestyle." Jones' colleagues in the Episcopal House of Bishops considered the question of ordination of homosexuals in their 1977 conference and decided that the matter should be further studied.

Meanwhile, the hierarchs of the Mormon Church summoned Rev. Ken Storer to meet with the high council on charges of apostasy. Storer, the pastor of Boise's Metropolitan Community Church, had remained on the rolls of the Mormon Church. Storer attempted to meet with the high council, as requested, but was turned away along with witnesses from his church.

Storer received a letter, signed by Grant R. Ipsen, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, saying that a high council of the Mormon Church had decided to excommunicate Storer after having, "thoroughly examined all the evidence." Ipsen also claimed that the council had wished to meet with Storer, but that he had refused to appear. At this time, it is not known whether Storer will attempt to reverse the decision of the council.

## Massachusetts Legislature

that may be an important fact to remember as the 1979 gay rights bills make their way through the State House.

The following legislators and organizations sponsored one or more of the 1979 gay rights bills:

**Sensors:** Jack H. Backman (D-Brookline), Edward L. Burke (D-Framingham), John C. King (D-Danvers), Robert A. Hall (R-Fitchburg), Sharon M. Pollard (D-Methuen), Bill Owens (D-Boston), and Allan R. McKinnon (D-Weymouth).

**Representatives:** Barney Frank (D-Boston), Mel King (D-South End), Barbara Gray (R-Framingham), John A. Businger (D-Brookline), Doris Bunte (D-Roxbury),

*Continued from Page 3*

William D. Benson (D-Leverett), Stephen J. Karol (D-Attleboro), Mary J. Gibson (D-Belmont), William P. Nagle (D-Northampton), John E. Murphy, Jr. (D-Peabody), Sandra Graham (I-Cambridge), Philip W. Johnston (D-Marshfield), Ann C. Gannett (R-Wayland), Michael J. Barnett (D-Reading), James G. Collins (D-Amherst), Royal L. Bolling (D-Dorchester), Andrew H. Card (R-Holbrook), William Bickford (D-Berlin), Nicholas Paleologous (D-Woburn), David B. Cohen (D-Newton).

**Organizations:** Massachusetts Caucus for Gay Legislation, Americans for Democratic Action, Daughters of Bilitis, Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, Citizens for Participation in Political Action (CPPAX), National Organization for Women.



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# Lesbians in NOW: The Lavender

By Cindy Stein

(with special thanks to Arlie Scott, Judy Arnold and Kathie Zawistowski)

It would not be inaccurate to view 1978 as a milestone year for the women's movement as well as the year that the gay movement made some critical friendships and, as a result, turned back the tide of defeat. Feminist writer Kate Millet told hundreds of women assembled at New York's "Forum of the Future" that the time for activism was upon us once again and warned us all not to forget that "revolution was our first idea." The theme of "unity in diversity" pervaded gay rallies and marches, referendum campaigns, the successful push to get the ERA extension through Congress, the fight in favor of abortion rights, and the many conferences and other events that were held throughout the year.

With the aid of wealth and technology, a strong and organized right wing surfaced and brought with it the spectre of two new political tactics: the referendum campaign, through which the attitudes of voters could be manipulated with scare tactics and through which the civil rights of gays and women could be easily disposed of, and the so-called constitutional convention, through which the Bill of Rights (which has been the basis for most of the important human rights decisions of the Supreme Court in the last decade) could be blue-pencilled and rewritten.

The practical and necessary answer to the threat was a new brand of well-planned, well thought out activism, marked by an important new ingredient: the coalition.

The formula proved successful for both the Women's and the Gay Movements. In July, hundreds of thousands marched in favor of the Equal Rights Amendment extension and in October, largely through the efforts of the National Organization for Women, but not without the help of a wide variety of other groups and organizations, the extension became a reality. In November, lesbians and gay men defeated, for the first time, a referendum question that threatened to take away civil rights in Seattle. In addition, the Briggs Initiative, a right wing ballot proposition which sought to purge gay teachers and straight teachers who "advocated" homosexuality as a positive lifestyle, was soundly put to rest by the voters of California. Those who organized to defeat this second measure sought out the support of labor unions, teachers' organizations, feminist groups and political action committees.

The necessity of working in coalitions is not always indicative of the ease and degree of comfort accompanying such work. It is a definite measure of the success of both the Women's and Gay Movements over the last ten years that feminists and gays are finally able to form effective coalitions that can get the job done. In the early seventies, it became important for lesbians and gay men, forced to stay in the closet, to take a step out of the larger, more established progressive political structures (such as the left and the mainstream sector of the Women's Movement), and to form our own perspective and culture. It is now equally as important to step back into the larger progressive structure in order to dissipate the strength of a common reactionary foe.

For some lesbians, this brand of "Third Wave" activism is manifesting itself in a return to groups such as the National Organization for Women, a group whose beginnings were marked at best by ambivalence and confusion about lesbianism, and at worst, by open hostility. A close historical look at how NOW has dealt with the issue of lesbianism (both with respect to lesbians inside the organization and in viewing lesbianism as a feminist issue) will give one a good understanding of why it has taken so long for lesbians and gay men to work in coalitions with other groups and what problems still remain in working within such coalitions. In addition, a focus on the progress of lesbians and the lesbian issue within NOW, will enable individuals to make a well informed choice when it comes time to decide where to apply one's political energies.

## The "Lavender Menace" Years

Lesbian involvement in NOW during the early years of the organization was kept very quiet. Many active women worked under the assumption that their coming out within NOW would not only hurt the reputation of the organization, but would also discredit the entire Women's Movement. In 1969, Rita Mae Brown joined the New York NOW and publicly declared that she was a lesbian. While her action forced many members to think a bit about lesbianism as a possible part of the Women's Movement, by itself, it could not achieve the larger goal of acceptance and support for lesbians in the movement. This point was made quite clear to Brown and a few other members who resigned from NOW in 1970 after it virtually ignored the lesbian issue and failed to mention the support of the Daughters of Bilitis at the Congress to Unite Women held in 1969. Her parting words rang with the biting, humorous tone that would later characterize her novels. "Lesbianism," she said, "is the one word which gives the New York NOW Executive Committee a collective heart attack."

Efforts toward changing NOW's views on lesbianism were as unsuccessful on the national level as they had been in New York. In 1969, an attempt to insert "sexual privacy" into NOW's Bill of Rights was withdrawn because,

according to the book *Sappho Was A Right-On Woman*, which chronicles the early years of NOW in relation to its stand on lesbianism, the National Board of Directors did not want to have to go on record as voting against it.

Meanwhile in New York Brown and other lesbians formerly in NOW, formed a group that was to become the Radicalesbians. This collective wrote a famous position paper, "Woman Identified Woman," which stated the essential connection between lesbianism and feminism.

The 1970 Congress to Unite Women held in New York was the forum in which the group chose to present its paper (although NOW was not officially among the list of the Congress' sponsors). During the Congress, the stage was taken over by twenty lesbians declaring themselves to be "The Lavender Menace" (the term NOW leader Betty Friedan had used to discredit open lesbians in the organization). The issue of lesbianism was publicly forced out of the closet as "Women Identified Woman" was read aloud to those in attendance. Later, The Lavender Menace held a workshop on the issue which was well attended by both lesbian and non-lesbian women, as was a women's dance held that evening.

This event marked the beginning of the end of lesbian passivity in the face of openly hostile attitudes expressed by

NOW members. In the months to come, prominent feminist leaders, like Caroline Bird, author of *Born Female*, and Kate Millet, would strongly come out in support of lesbians. Lavender armbands were passed out to all women to wear at a New York City feminist demonstration, in order to disarm critics who dismissed the entire Women's Movement as a "lesbian plot."

## The 1971 Resolution and Aftermath

Lesbian activity in NOW was by no means confined to the East Coast. In California, the Los Angeles Chapter as well as local area chapters voted to approve a pro-lesbian resolution that was to become the basis for the National Lesbian Resolution which was passed by the entire membership at the NOW National Convention held in Los Angeles in September of 1971. The impetus for this resolution came not from the lesbian leadership existing at the time in the organization, but instead, it was spearheaded by a grassroots group of West Coast women (both lesbian and straight) among whom was Arlie Scott, the author of the resolution and presently a vice president of NOW.

According to Scott, much of the resistance to the resolution at the National Convention came from a minority of the more cautious leadership, which maintained that the issue could only hurt the movement as a whole.

Nevertheless, the Resolution and an accompanying position paper were introduced. They received a standing ovation from the membership at large, and on Sept. 5, 1971, they were overwhelmingly approved by 95% of those in attendance.

The exact wording of the Lesbian Resolution was as follows:

*Be It Resolved:* that NOW recognizes the double oppression of women who are lesbians;



*Be it further resolved:* that a woman's right to her own person includes the right to define and express her own sexuality and to choose her own lifestyle, and

*Be it further resolved:* that NOW acknowledges the oppression of lesbians as a legitimate concern of feminism.

Once the convention was ended and the victory had been won, the National Organization for Women did very little to put the words of the policy into action. Perhaps, however, the passage of the Lesbian Resolution did achieve a more unmeasurable type of success. The Women's Movement, and NOW in particular, did not fall apart, nor were they criticized out of existence, as

many opponents of the resolution inside NOW had predicted.

Seventeen months after the resolution was adopted, and one month before the 1973 National Convention was held in Washington, D.C., a Task Force on Sexuality and Lesbianism was formed within NOW. This task force remained ineffectual on the issue of lesbian rights due to disinterested leadership. The 1973 Conference managed, however, to get things rolling once again and three important pro-lesbian events resulted from that gathering. The first was the election of both Arlie Scott and Del Martin, the co-founder of Daughters of Bilitis and author of the book *Lesbian/Woman*, to the NOW Board of Directors. Martin and Scott had run for the board as openly lesbian. The second was the distribution of a questionnaire, written by Scott and distributed in the name of the Lesbian Feminist Caucus of the membership, which asked all candidates running for national office within NOW to state the organization's policy regarding lesbian rights and to indicate what actions they proposed to deal with the various problems that make up lesbian oppression. The third outcome of the conference was the passage of a second pro-lesbian resolution which specified areas in which NOW pledged to introduce and support civil rights legislation for lesbians.

Arlie Scott characterizes the following years, 1974 and part of 1975, as a time in which NOW was "consumed by internal struggles," and as a time in which the organization did not focus on the issue of lesbian rights. The re-election of NOW President Karen De Crow at the 1975 Philadelphia National Convention was a bitterly fought battle, in which the more progressive, pro-De Crow, "majority caucus" struggled with the more cautious, conservative factions of the organization.

One of the issues dividing the two sectors of the national membership was that of lesbian rights. DeCrow and the "majority caucus" prevailed and, in her re-election speech, the incumbent president adhered to her support of lesbians, emphasizing the connection of the Women's and Gay Liberation struggles and urging NOW to take a stand against the larger homophobic culture. Today, DeCrow, still an active member in her local Greater Syracuse Chapter in New York, sits on NOW's national Lesbian Rights Committee.

## Where Is NOW at Present?

It has been both too easy and too

Ken Rabb



# Menace Lives

difficult to attempt to measure the degree of success that supporters of lesbian rights have achieved within NOW. NOW members' responses to my question "Where is NOW on lesbian issues?" reflected not only the individual respondent's experience and position in the organization, but also her political philosophy and attitude toward social change.

A less subjective method of determining NOW's stand might be to point out three very significant examples of active support which NOW has given to the cause of lesbian rights. In 1974, NOW (along with DOB) provided the only organized national support for Mary Joe Risher, a lesbian mother who was ultimately denied custody of her son after a much publicized court battle in Dallas. In 1976, NOW's efforts were influential in enabling lesbians to be elected as state delegates to the International Women's Year Conference held in Houston. And in 1977 and 1978, NOW, on both the national and the regional level, waged a Referenda and Initiative Campaign to defeat ballot propositions which threatened the civil rights of gay men and lesbians.

Indeed, at the Houston Conference held in 1976, the entire delegation, consisting both of women affiliated with a variety of women's groups and those not affiliated with any group, voted in favor of a controversial sexual preference resolution. That vote was seen by many as an important official stamp of approval on lesbianism as a feminist issue. At long last, Movement pioneer and former NOW leader Betty Friedan gave her endorsement to lesbians. Friedan's historic words, however, were rather in the nature of a lefthand compliment:

I am known to be violently opposed to the lesbian issue. As someone who has grown up in middle America and as someone who has loved men too well, I have had trouble with this issue. Now my priority is in passing the ERA. And because there is nothing in it that will give any protection to homosexuals, I believe we must help the women who are lesbians.

Friedan is not alone in placing the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment as her top priority issue. The National Organization for Women has, in the last two years, given the ERA and its extension a large proportion of its resources and time. The effort has paid off immensely with the Congressional victory of August, 1978. The passage of the ERA Extension not only increased the time in which the Amendment could be ratified by the three remaining states needed, but it also established the Women's Movement (and especially NOW) as a viable and influential political force in the eyes of more traditional political groups.

The question that many lesbians asked was whether all this work was being accomplished at the expense of other goals of the organization. Some made the frightening comparison to the "First Wave" of feminism, which dissolved after women achieved the right to vote. Arlie Scott, however, underlines her own commitment to working on lesbian rights through her position in national NOW. Her response is "To say that lesbian rights is not central to the feminist movement is not to understand the movement." After all, she continues, "control of one's own body and the right to choose are the two main themes of the movement." Scott sees it as the job of the NOW leadership to educate members on this point. It is essential that "we

link all of the issues philosophically." She warns, "It's going to take a long time, which means there's no time to lose."

## The National Level, The Local Level

The National Organization for Women, like *Ms Magazine*, is criticized both from the right and the left. The former sees it as too radical, while the latter sees it as moderate or even conservative. It is indeed difficult to ascertain just where NOW falls on a liberal-conservative continuum, not only because such a positioning is a reflection of the philosophy of the particular speaker, but because the loose structure of the organization does not lend itself to any such conclusions.

NOW operates on two levels, the national and the local. At the top of the national organizational chart is the board of directors which consists of the five paid officers (president, vice president-administration, vice president-action, secretary and treasurer) and board members elected at the national convention from different regions of the country. National committees, which come under the auspices of the VP-Action, are chaired by the regional board members. One such committee, the National Societal Equality Committee, contains a group of task forces, among which is the National Lesbian Rights Committee. The state level of NOW is autonomous from the national level and the organization of state structures varies greatly. Usually, however, there is a state coordinator and a number of local chapters, within which there might be a Task Force on Sexuality or a Lesbian Task Force.

Chapters on the local level vary greatly with respect to their priorities and in their acceptance of lesbianism as a feminist issue. Arlie Scott states that an individual "cannot be a member of NOW and not adhere to the goals of the organization which include lesbian rights." However, an acceptance of NOW's policy decisions and resolutions at the national level will not always be translated into action on the local level. In Boston, where the local chapter has its own Lesbian Task Force (LTF), Judy Arnold, who presently chairs that committee, stated that the issue of lesbian rights is "almost so acceptable that there's never any activity on it and a lot of things don't get done." Although Arnold characterizes the open reaction of NOW members as "very accommodating," she maintains that "intense pressure is needed to get anything done," even "to get a handful of people to a fundraiser." "I notice," she continues, "that all the lesbian rights issues always get passed unanimously. The feeling is that if we can come out of here saying that we unanimously passed it, first, we can get it off the floor fast and secondly, we don't have to do anything about it — we voted on it unanimously, for God sakes!"

In addition to the problem of "lip service," there is a fear among members of the Boston LTF that the lesbian issue is becoming ghettoized, i.e., that all of the work to be done on the sexual preference issue is relegated to a Lesbian Task Force or committee and not dealt with by the larger membership. While this problem seems to be nonexistent on the national level where, for example, gay rights legislation is part of the larger legislative program of NOW, it is still a concern locally. Judy Arnold related an anecdote in which an announcement she



Betty Lane

submitted to the newsletter of Boston NOW on behalf of the LTF was not printed because she did not personally supervise the inclusion of the item, whereas other committee chairpeople need only to submit similar announcements and no further action is expected of them. She lamented that "every time there's anything lesbian discussed, it's directed at me."

Another factor that has contributed to this fear, that the lesbian issue is becoming ghettoized within NOW, is that, at the local level, non-lesbians often do not work on lesbian issues. Nationally, the efforts of lesbians who are involved in all phases of NOW and on every issue on which it works are reciprocated somewhat by the involvement of non-lesbian members in sexual preference issues. As previously mentioned, past-president Karen DeCrow, along with Ann Crimmins, the state coordinator for Connecticut, are active members of the national Lesbian Rights Committee. Crimmins, whose consciousness concerning lesbian oppression was raised through her involvement in feminism and whose sensitivity toward gays was formed through her close association with a gay male friend, stated that it was essential for non-lesbian feminists to work on lesbian rights issues. As a teacher at a junior high school who has an opportunity to speak to students openly on a variety of social issues, she stated that "someone has to tell the truth, and I have less to lose as far as my life is concerned. Unless we work together and talk together, we're both in the closet."

In Boston, the LTF sees lack of reciprocity as a real problem in the chapter. Although LTF members have marched in pro-abortion demonstrations and have contributed energy to the many causes NOW supports, they do not see a clear return of efforts from the larger membership. Recently, the LTF organized an extensive week-

end of events to raise money to defeat the California Briggs Initiative, a part of which was a raffle. Arnold recalls, "If the president had pushed the raffle tickets, it would have made so much of a difference in sales, when in fact she ignored it like it wasn't going on and it really angered me — but it's a very good example of how they can help and don't."

Positive things, nevertheless, are happening for lesbians involved in NOW at the local level. Most of the support is given in the form of lobbying in favor of gay rights bills and helping individual lesbians who are facing threatening discrimination problems. Arnold and the Lesbian Task Force in Boston do not paint a totally gloomy picture of their experiences in NOW and are thankful to many members, both gay and straight, who have given them unwavering support since the task force was formed about two years ago.

## Why Join Now?

The National Organization for Women is the strongest and largest feminist group in the country. It has a decade's worth of experience and know-how behind it and it is designed to work efficiently, so as to achieve its goals. It has articulated its positive stand on lesbian rights and has backed up the words with action.

In local chapters, attitudes toward lesbianism run from very positive to apprehensive and therefore unresponsive. Many variables affect the dominant philosophy of a particular chapter, including its geographical location, its proportion of open lesbians and the offices they hold, its reputation in the surrounding community, and the degree of effort that lesbian members exert to raise the consciousness of the membership.

The Boston Chapter has been used as an example only, and is not meant to

Continued on Page 13



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# A Gay Pacifist Looks at Gay Movement

By John Kyper

For many years David McReynolds has been a prominent American pacifist. He is a staff member and public speaker for the War Resisters League, in New York. His involvement with radical politics began, inauspiciously, at the beginning of the Cold War, in the late 1940s. He has served as editorial secretary of *Liberation* and has written extensively for publications like the *Village Voice*, *WIN Magazine* and *Peace News* in London. In 1970, Grove Press published a collection of his writings: *We Have Been Invaded by the 21st Century*.

The War Resisters League (WRL) is one of the largest of the groups that comprise the peace movement. Founded in 1923, WRL is dedicated to the elimination of militarism and violence in any form.

During the Indochina war, WRL's principled pacifist position led it into many conflicts with other members of the antiwar coalition. Nevertheless, McReynolds traveled to Hanoi during the war, in an attempt to communicate between America and Vietnam. Through all of this, the War Resisters League has maintained a healthy ideological openness, avoiding the dogmatism and sectarian in-fighting that ripped apart the Students for a Democratic Society a decade ago.

SDS had been a formative political experience for many feminist and gay activists, who moved beyond the macho histrionics and intolerance that had come to characterize the organization. In the same month that SDS broke into half a dozen warring splinters, the modern gay liberation movement was born at the Stonewall riots. Later that year, in November, 1969, *WIN* published its landmark "Gay Scenes" issue, which featured essays by David McReynolds and the late Paul Goodman discussing their homosexuality. The issue was influential in my own journey from conscientious objection to gay liberation (and got me hooked on *WIN*).

For me, "Gay Scenes" offered a first assessment of the problems and possibilities of a political movement. *WIN* was started in 1966 as an alternative to the dryness of many pacifist publications, and it continues to this day as a provocative journal for social change activists. That issue cost the magazine a number of cancelled subscriptions and complaints about the "inappropriate" topic of the symposium.

In his "Notes For a More Coherent Article" (included in *21st Century*), David wrote of his fears that his honesty would jeopardize support for both WRL and *WIN*, but concluded: "I have a hunch that younger people will not even grasp my qualms at this point — and they will be right — for they have not yet confused a concern with honesty and directness with a concern for preserving an organization committed to honesty and directness." He was not asked to leave; he received overwhelming support from older members of the pacifist movement, including Amon Henancy shortly before his death.

Last April I interviewed David at his home in New York. He spoke of the fears he had: "There is the danger — it would be true in any politics, but particularly in radical politics — of giving your enemy a weapon to use against your whole organization. I felt for a long period of time a great respect, admiration, but also envy, for Allen Ginsberg for having been very open about his homosexuality. That was something Allen could do without jeo-



David McReynolds

pardizing an organization. . . . I've been sort of curious, when I go places, curious whether the Right Wing has circulated the essay. I had made certain that the essay was included [in the book], so no one could accuse me of having written it for an obscure publication, and then forgotten it. But it's never been used against me.

GCN: In your essay you expressed some reservations about the gay community, and I understand that you still feel a lot of distance from it.

DM: I think there are two things that account for my distance from the gay community. I came out in 1949. . . . At that time I assumed that there was an inner circle in the gay community of attractive, masculine, cultured, brilliant, witty, articulate men — a magic inner circle. It took me years to realize that there was no magic inner circle, there was just a desperate series of hunts going on. All of gay society was insecure, and all of it was haunted, and I don't know that this may not still be true. . .

The gay community [today] has formed a kind of voluntary ghetto, that there's not only a "gay is beautiful" or "gay is proud" position, but really a "gay is better." Instead of arguing that there's a little bit of gay in the straightest of us and a little bit of straight in the gayest of us, which is an accurate statement, the gay community tends to be very defensive about recognizing the degree of repressed heterosexuality in gay individuals. I find it a self-imposed ghetto, cut off from the process of life and death and the birth of children and dying and getting old. I think in that sense that the gay world is a vacation from reality.

The other reason is more political, in that I don't sense in the male homosexual community anything much more than a very, very important civil rights issue. But I'm afraid that that's different from linking the gay community, the men's movement, with the black community or with women. Both of those groups are by definition identifiable. There's *no way* to discriminate against us in housing or in jobs or in any other way at all if we're not identifiable. The oppression is one of psychic oppression, but it is simply not true that we are denied jobs or we are denied employment, or advancement. On the contrary, homosexuals have risen as high as to head the FBI, have been cardinals in the Catholic church — there's no barrier, whereas there are no women who are cardinals, and only very recently blacks became cardinals. But "queers" have always been able to make it to the top of the Catholic hierarchy, and they've always been on the top of the government and police department. And that's the basic difference.

GCN: Where do you see the gay movement going? or do you see it going anywhere?

DM: I see it, obviously, as a very pow-

Continued on next page



Continued from preceding page

erful movement. This goes back to how I distinguish it from the black movement or the women's movement. I believe that the capitalist society can deal with the male homosexual — and I don't mean by genocide or shooting them all — I think they can absorb, and have in fact already absorbed, the male homosexual in this society. I don't think that male homosexuality poses any threat to the economic structure of the country. Whereas, I do not believe you're going to get equality of women so long as the present economic structure exists, since they have to fight not only a question of whether they'll be treated in some psychologically sensitive way, but — in my view more important — whether they'll have equal right at the economic level. Nor do I think blacks can get it under the present structure. I think that the male homosexual can — I think the issue is a civil liberties issue, I think it can be won, I think it will be won.

One tendency of the women's movement which I can't think is at all healthy is to achieve these goals by adapting to a male-oriented structure. You get this in the struggle, for example, for women to enlist in the armed forces. You have an echo of this in the gay liberation struggle for men to get in the armed forces. Rather than women challenging the question of whether a society should be defended by violence and whether there may not be alternatives that occur to women that do not occur to men, there is an adaptation to male values and male institutions. I don't think you're dealing with [a psychologically healthy movement] when it says, "If I adapt to your values, will you then permit me to take part in the society that you dominate?"

GCN: It sounds like a paradox, that male homosexuals can be absorbed more easily into the structure—

DM: Right, but they're more hated. . . . This society is much more permissive about lesbians than they are about male homosexuals, partly because they really can't think that women would do anything as "dirty" as that.

GCN: That paradox seems to be the source of much of the friction between gay men and lesbians.

DM: I think that both the men and the women had assumed more common ground than there was, because they saw the oppression that both faced. It does give them something in common, but not enough in common. The gay male, at a certain point, can say, "I'm sorry about this, but it turns out that I can get what I want out of the society without getting what you want, and so I'm going to make the best deal that I can and good luck to you." There's always that danger.

GCN: There is a big streak of misogyny among gay males. It's something I experienced in the gay community ten years ago, before I came out, and it still seems very, very strong.

DM: We are very resistant to the reality that in virtually every gay man there is a repressed desire for women. Linked with that, I find that some of the most ardent feminists are, in fact, gay men. I think they've found a way of coming to terms with their unconscious heterosexuality, by becoming ardent champions of feminism, so they have their link with women without admitting it.

GCN: Are you suggesting this is a form of sublimation?

DM: I think it is, I think it is a form of sublimated relationship with women — a safe, non-sexual relationship, but one that fulfills a very basic, unconscious need.

Very few men, once they admit they're homosexual, cross back over the line, even when they're drunk or have been smoking pot. On the other hand, it's very common for men who are quite clear on their identification, who have wives, who are not gay, when they are drunk, to slide over into a homosexual relationship. That taboo is weaker. This is why I think the gay community sometimes deceives itself into thinking that everyone is really gay — that's really not true.

One of the things I've found, looking at this from a perspective of 48, is that there are people that I have gone to bed with who had not had a homosexual relationship until after they were married. In some cases I would be the only person they had gone to bed with. Once they were married, they really felt secure enough, at some completely unconscious level, that if they went to bed with a man it didn't jeopardize their role, the role that had been established by the marriage and the children, and they probably never went to bed with anyone else again. It was something they wanted to try, and they were drunk at the time, and they did it. The taboo is much weaker at that point.

Kinsey reported that one-third of all men had had homosexual experiences after puberty. I find it hard to believe that two-thirds of American men have not had a homosexual experience after puberty. But I don't think that one-third of all gay men, once they have become gay, have had a heterosexual experience. I don't think that happens as often. I think the line is much sharper on that side. That would be an interesting survey to make, by the way, a survey of the homosexual community that asks how many men, after they came out, had had a sexual relationship with women, to see how it compares with straight men who had had a relationship with men.



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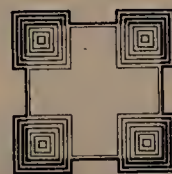
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# Couples Talk About Relationships

By Frank Ring

Two by two they gathered in front of the roaring fire in the large meeting room. They were gay male and lesbian couples who were gathering for a weekend of reflecting on their own relationships and reaching out to support others.

To understand this unique group one must flash back to a meeting of four couples concerned about their own special needs. Bob Goss, a graduate student at Harvard Divinity School and his lover, Frank Ring, a therapist on the staff of Mass Bay Counseling Associates, met with a few of their friends in the fall of 1977. Experiencing disapproval of much of straight society and finding themselves alienated from many of their single gay friends, these couples were searching for ways to build a network of support.

Bob Goss and Frank Ring, as facilitators, had developed a schedule that featured individual work by the couple along with group sharing. The weekend opened on Friday evening, Nov. 11 with a general sharing of expectations. The program had attracted an equal number of gay male and lesbian couples. As they voiced their expectations, the deep need for community and support became evident. These were couples who had struggled greatly to preserve their relationships, who deeply felt the love they shared and who needed to have their vision renewed and affirmed.

Two lesbian mothers told of the struggle of creating a relationship while handling a brood of kids. Kate, a young elementary school teacher, shared her painful isolation. A seminarian explained how his shifting sense of vocation was creating strains on his relationship. The concerns, the fears, the joys poured out. Through them all,

a central theme recurred: "We are men and women who have found great happiness in our relationships. We need to celebrate this love we share." Late into the night, over wine and cheese, the individuals talked, sharing experiences.

The major portion of Saturday was spent writing "love letters." Twice in the morning and again in the afternoon, the couples gathered. Bob and Frank offered a short reflection on some aspect of relationship and each individual then spent twenty minutes writing a letter to her or his partner on the topic. The couples exchanged letters and talked about the significance of what they had written. Topics covered included the special gifts each brings to the relationship, issues of trust and areas of growth. Tears flowed, tempers sometimes flared. Couples could be seen walking hand in hand through the autumn woods, others huddled by the blazing fire. Some disappeared to their bedrooms not to be seen again for hours. The challenge put forth at the beginning of the weekend to make the time a romantic experience, a time to celebrate same sex love, was being taken seriously.

The second part of the program provided time for everyone to come together as a group to share their concerns and insights. Issues of sexuality and commitments to relationship were quickly raised. The mix of men and women offered the opportunity to share differences and explore common attitudes. Many of the male couples had experienced tensions when one partner had sex outside the relationship. The women, on the other hand, didn't feel the same need to have outside sexual contacts and didn't find this as pressing a problem. All listened attentively as one of the couples who had been together for a number of years described how they handled an early

affair outside their relationship. "It was very hard for me to learn to trust Tim again," Alf said, "and it's only been with time and a lot of talking that we've been able to overcome this."

The dilemma of wanting to feel free yet still respect the limits of a love relationship were raised. Fear of abandonment plagued some participants. "When Sam seemed attracted to someone else, I always thought he would just pick up and leave me," one member explained. "No matter how often he would reassure me, I still had that fear." At the end of one session, Dane, the young seminarian, commented: "It was so good to hear someone talk about the very issues my lover and I have been fighting about for so long and see that it doesn't have to destroy the relationship." There was audible assent to this from the group.

Through Saturday night and Sunday the couples aired their concerns, spoke of the strengths, and offered insights born of their own experiences. How can we be angry? How do we fight? How can we handle finances better? What about conflicting career decisions? The list of questions grew. While there were not always clear answers, there was a growing feeling of solidarity.

As Sunday afternoon approached, the sense of the importance of the group became more evident. In evaluating the weekend, one person after another voiced the realization that, as couples, they now know they are not alone. A community of support had begun to form. One lesbian couple invited everyone to join them the following week to celebrate their anniversary. Another couple from Maine extended an open invitation to anyone who found themselves in their area. The weekend closed back in front of the fireplace with everyone in a tight

circle holding hands. The intensity of the silence was broken by a few "thanks": to the facilitators, to the staff of Camp Aldersgate, but especially to the group who had made the weekend such a special time. Tears and embraces followed, last words of farewell as the couples headed home.

For a weekend, they had enjoyed the full support of others who shared their values. A little of the magic lingered. Many couples had developed special insights into their own relationships. There were also general conclusions. Maria summed it up: "We learned, again, how important it is for two people in an intimate relationship to communicate with each other, to let your partner have her feelings and not to be defensive." All saw that a good relationship doesn't happen but that it is the result of much active effort by both members.

The sense of alienation that the couples had been experiencing had eased somewhat. Plans for further gatherings were made; other weekends designed to reach out to more couples will be organized. The importance of developing nurturing support groups that can reinforce the value of gay relationships was recognized by all. Larry, a social worker and Dane's lover, remarked: "We came out of the weekend a different couple. This experience of other couples has dramatically affected us."

The Enrichment program was an opportunity for couples who love one another to make good relationships better. The techniques of communication used and the community of support heightened people's awareness of the reality of their love. The weekend aimed to rekindle the glow that originally fired the couple's life together. It was designed to give pride and enthusiasm. The program was a first in New England. The interest and excitement that it created seems to indicate that this weekend will be followed by many more.



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# Can This Marriage Be Saved?

## A Wedding

Directed by Robert Altman

By Robin Marlowe

Sick, sick, sick was all that came to mind after seeing Robert Altman's "A Wedding." Sick for the film and sick for the audience, which laughed hardest at the clumsiest humor and whose puppet responses punctuated the show like a well-edited laugh track on television.

These days, homosexuality is *de rigueur* for success in entertainment. Simple sex and gratuitous violence are no longer enough. Middle America hungers for "forbidden fruit."

The token gays are, predictably, the captain of the honor guard (obsessed with his charges' flies) and the emcee of the wedding reception (Geraldine Chaplin), whose punch line is a concise expose of society's twisted perspective — "My brides are the only children I'll ever have."

Oh how touching that because the bride is being detained by the lesbian and the drunk groom is being sobered up in the shower by the guard, they are believed dead in a crash of the honeymoon Mercedes.

Don't see this film unless you need a jolt for your anger or a reminder of how far there is to go.

## NOW

be depicted as a model chapter whose strong and weak points with respect to lesbian rights are illustrative of all locals. It is apparent, however, that while the Boston LTF has accomplished much in the way of education in NOW and is beginning to work outside the organization to promote the rights of lesbians and gay men, members are still feeling some measure of frustration which comes with the subtle obstacles which they face from the larger NOW membership.

A former member of the LTF who recently resigned from the group (and from NOW) felt that the task of educating straight women, by the use of LTF's Consciousness Raising Kit for feminists, was diverting lesbians from the work they must do for themselves in society. Her argument was that "running in small circles" (i.e., having to enlighten straight women in feminists groups like NOW on the need for lesbian rights) was less beneficial than working in the larger society in separate lesbian feminist organizations. Her conclusion was that NOW has not, as Karen DeCrow urged in 1975, sufficiently challenged our homophobic culture. Lesbians, however, must consider whether it is wise to abandon NOW altogether, especially after so many gains, both symbolic and actual, have been fought for and won. In some towns and cities, NOW members are still seen as "a bunch of lesbians" and the issue is continually used against them. Only by realizing that the name calling will stop once feminists work to disarm the word "lesbian" of its negative connotations, will non-lesbian members cease their fears of lesbian presence in the chapter.

The mechanisms for support both

Continued from Page 9

inside and outside NOW are more available to lesbians today than they were for Rita Mae Brown and others in 1969. The option of changing the organization from within is much more realistic at present than it was ten years ago when lesbianism in NOW was seen as a "lavender herring." The prospect that lesbians might abandon NOW is less scary than the prospect that, if they did, the National Organization for Women, the largest and most powerful feminist group in the country, might abandon lesbians.

In 1978, lesbians, gay men, and feminists joined together on many battlefronts and found strength, not divisiveness, in their diversity. Years of consciousness, and separatism, as well as the formation of a strong women's culture, have given lesbians an identity and a power that can no longer be diluted and pushed aside by the Women's Movement. The talent and energy of lesbian women is an essential ingredient for the success of all women. Now that we can no longer be intimidated or forced to remain silent, we can work effectively with others and not lose ourselves. Lesbians have done much, NOW has done much — it's time we gave NOW a second look.

*"I have since discovered that the overall membership of the National Organization for Women is, across the country, dedicated and admirable. If I still find myself in political disagreement with some of NOW's positions, I have learned, at the peril of my own feminist consciousness, not to sneer stupidly at the entire organization."*

—Robin Morgan from *Going Too Far*, 1978.

## Man-Boy Love Conference

Ward characterized the law as the least appropriate way of dealing with man-boy love problems. He called judges' love for preserving the "constitutionality" of laws an obsession with the "integrity of adolescent cherry."

In the state of Massachusetts, the law presumes a young woman or man under the age of 16 cannot consent to a sex act, although until 1974, Ward noted, statutory rape dealt only with young women. The attorney said that while a Boston court could be expected to sentence a man to a life term in prison for sex with a minor, other courts in the state might hand out the greatly lesser charge of "lewd and lascivious conduct with a minor."

Curtis Mason, a 17-year-old active with New York's Gay Youth Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men and a peer counselor at Hunter College, described his work in man-boy relationships as often "rescue missions to minimize the danger."

Mason said he feels fortunate that his mother is an attorney involved with

Continued from Page 3

gay civil rights issues and accepts the fact that he has sex with other men.

Conference organizer Tom Reeves noted laws which charge people with contributing to the delinquency of a minor and "intent to rape."

"When I have sex with someone, I feel clean and good. When I go into court or a bank or the State House, then I feel dirty," Reeves said. He urged the conference participants to talk with "health professionals" and remind them that age is not the key element in the issue; the key elements are oppression, violence and manipulation. "We must make psychiatrists sensitive and aware of these distinctions," Reeves said.

As the conference ended, a follow-up caucus met and formed the Man-Boy Lovers of North America. A future meeting of the organization will be held in New York. The group will hold discussions on ageism, and exploitation and will publish a newsletter about man-boy love.

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women, and Sun for men. Free walk-in  
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tions accepted. 544 Ave of Americas,  
NYC. 212-243-8181. (fr)

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GAYS AND LESBIANS (BUUGL), an inclu-  
sive group of religious liberals working to  
provide opportunities for community  
building among lesbians and gay men,  
meets every Sunday evening at the Ar-  
lington St. Church, 355 Boylston St., at  
7:00 p.m. Lesbians especially welcome.  
For more info call Bob Wheatley at  
742-2100. (D49)

PUBLICATIONS

FOCUS  
A monthly journal of fiction, articles,  
poetry, book reviews, etc., by, for and  
about gay women. 1 year subscription (12  
issues) \$8. Sample copy 75c. Always sent  
in plain envelope. Focus, Box GCN. 1151  
Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA 02138. (c)

GAY SCENE — The Picture Homophile  
Monthly in 8th Year of Publication. News  
From Everywhere; Movement News;  
King's Reviews (Stage, Screen, Book &  
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NEW ENGLAND BAR GUIDE

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East (203) 226-6204</p> <p>Vincent's Disco 925 State St. East</p> <p><b>MAINE</b></p> <p><b>AUGUSTA</b></p> <p>FLO'S TAVERN N. Belfast Ave. (Rte. 7) (207) 622-4393</p>	<p><b>LEWISTON</b></p> <p>BLUE SWAN Canal St.</p> <p><b>OGUNQUIT</b></p> <p>ANABEL'S Rte. 1 (at Maine St.) (207) 646-8453</p> <p><b>ORONO</b></p> <p>LUNA BASE ONE Rte. 2 (disco; mixed)</p> <p><b>PORTLAND</b></p> <p>PHOENIX 83 Oak St. (207) 773-5695</p> <p>ONE WAY 10 Union Place</p> <p>ROLAND'S TAVERN 413A Cumberland Ave. (207) 772-9159</p> <p><b>MASSACHUSETTS</b></p> <p><b>BOSTON</b></p> <p>BOSTON EAGLE 88 Queensberry St. 247-9586</p> <p>Leather. Men. Thurs. Club Nite, Sunday Brunch 3PM. Movies Mon. &amp; Tues. 8PM</p> <p>THE BAR 252 Boylston St. 247-9308</p> <p>Disco dancing, mostly men.</p> <p>CARNIVAL LOUNGE 39 Boylston St. 338-7159</p> <p>Dancing. Mixed.</p> <p>CHAPS 27 Huntington Ave. 266-7778</p> <p>Food. Men.</p> <p>CITADEL 22 Avery St. 482-9040</p> <p>Dancing. Men.</p> <p>CLUB 76 76 Battery March St. 542-3377</p> <p>A place for women and their friends</p> <p>DARTS 271 Dartmouth St. 536-8200</p> <p>Dancing. Men.</p> <p>DELIVERY ENTRANCE At The House Restaurant 12 Wilton St., Allston 783-5701</p> <p>Men &amp; Women. "It's Different"</p> <p>ENCORE 1256 Boylston St. Dancing. Men.</p> <p>HARRY'S PLACE 45 Essex St. Dancing. Men.</p> <p>HERBIE'S RAMROD ROOM 12 Carver St. 338-8577</p> <p>Leather. Men. Sunday Brunch 7PM Thurs.</p>	<p>JACQUES 79 Broadway 338-7502</p> <p>Mixed. Dancing.</p> <p>NAPOLEON CLUB 52 Piedmont St. 338-7547</p> <p>Dancing Fri., Sat., Sun. Men.</p> <p>PLAYLAND 21 Essex St. Men (some Women)</p> <p>119 MERRIMAC 119 Merrimac St. 523-8960</p> <p>Dancing. Men. Tues.-Thurs. Buffet 9-11PM</p> <p>SAINTS (Call 354-8807) Women</p> <p>SOMEWHERE 295 Franklin St. 423-7730</p> <p>Disco Dancing. Mixed.</p> <p>Sunday Brunch 12-2PM</p> <p>SPORTER'S CAFE 228 Cambridge St. Men. Movies Mon., 5PM</p> <p>Sunday Brunch 3PM</p> <p>STYX 20 Blagden St. 247-3910</p> <p>Disco. Dancing. Men.</p> <p>TOGETHER 110 Boylston St. Disco Dancing. Mixed.</p> <p>1270 1270 Boylston St. 261-1257</p> <p>Disco Dancing. Mixed (mostly Men)</p> <p>TWELVE CARVER 12 Carver St. Men</p> <p>WERNER'S Sears Crescent Building City Hall Plaza</p> <p>Food, Dancing, Men</p> <p><b>BROCKTON</b></p> <p>ENRICO'S LOUNGE 20 Legion Pkwy (617) 588-9716</p> <p>BOB'S PLACE 44 Centre St. (617) 588-9976</p> <p><b>CAMBRIDGE</b></p> <p>PARADISE 180 Massachusetts Ave. 864-4130</p> <p>Talking, mostly Men</p> <p><b>LOWELL</b></p> <p>COSMOPOLITAN CAFE 511 Market St.</p> <p><b>LYNN</b></p> <p>FRAN'S PLACE 776 Washington St. (617) 595-8961</p> <p>MR. DOMINIC'S 34-36 Central Ave. (617) 595-9051</p>	<p><b>NEW BEDFORD</b></p> <p>FRIENDS AND LOVERS 145 N. 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CAFE 281 High St. (401) 762-9740</p> <p><b>VERMONT</b></p> <p><b>BELLOWS FALLS</b></p> <p>ANDREW'S INN (802) 436-3966</p> <p><b>BRATTLEBORO</b></p> <p>FLAT ST. DISCO (Gay crowd on Wed.)</p>
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# CALENDAR

The deadline for Calendar Items is Tuesday at noon for the following issue.

## 9 sat

**Boston** — The Ella Ellison Support Committee is holding a winter craft and rummage sale from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury St.

**Boston** — Demonstration against the J.P. Stevens Co. for its anti-union activities in front of Jordan Marsh, Washington and Summer Sts., 11 a.m. Sponsored by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

**Cambridge, MA** — The Jailhouse Rock, a Disco sponsored by the Walpole Norfolk Prisoner Support Coalition, will be held from 9pm to 1am at the Cambridge Community Center, 5 Calendar St. Admission \$2.50, beer and wine will be sold

## 10 sun

**West Hartford, CT** — WWUH (91.3 FM), will air "The Making of Walls to Roses," a one-hour documentary on the making of the first album of the Men's Music Collective. 8pm.

**Cambridge, MA** — WCAS (740 AM) will feature a discussion of man-boy love with Dr. Thomas Reeves, and Attorney John Ward on Closet Space, 9am.

**Boston** — The Lesbian Task Force of NOW is sponsoring an open house at 2pm. All Interested women may attend. For more information call 227-4373.

**Boston** — Members of BUUGL will conduct a special service of worship at the Arlington St. Church, 11 a.m.

**Boston** — The Daughters of Bilitis will hold their Tenth Birthday Party at Somewhere, 295 Franklin St. 4 p.m.

## 11 mon

**Cambridge, MA** — Gay Folkdancing at Phillips Brooks House, near Harvard Yard, from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

**Salem, MA** — North Shore Gay Alliance will hold its next meeting at 7:30 p.m. at 31R Chestnut St. Representatives from MCGL will discuss the pending Gay Rights Bill and the results of the Mass. elections.

## 12 tues

**Providence, RI** — Lesbian Feminist Union holds general meeting. Welcomes new members to discuss upcoming projects. 7:30pm, Sarah Doyle Center, 185 Meeting St. For more information call (401) 863-2189.

**Amherst, MA** — The U. of Mass. People's Gay Alliance will sponsor a Coffee House-Pot Luck Dinner to be held at Farley Lounge (adjacent to the football field). All are cordially invited to share dinner at 6:30, or arrive later for the 7:30 coffee house. Please bring a Christmas Gift worth \$1 to exchange.

**Boston** — Monthly meeting of the GCN collective. Held at 22 Bromfield St., 6:15 p.m. All members of the collective are urged to attend.

## 13 wed

**Holliston, MA** — Lambda of Middlesex will hold an organizational meeting at 8pm. Call 429-6583 for more information.

**Holliston, MA** — Lambda of Middlesex will hold an organizational meeting at 8 p.m. Call 429-6593 for more information.

## 15 fri

**Cambridge, MA** — *The Chicago Maternity Center Story*, a unique documentary of the maternity center that brought home deliveries to lower-income mothers for 75 years, will be shown at Redbook, 136 River St., at 7:30, showings at the same time on Saturday and Sunday. Donation requested for the prison book program.

## 16 sat

**Boston, MA** — Experimental Theatre Workshop for gay men will be sponsored by Faggots and Bodies, and members of the cast of *Salome*. The workshop will include movement, vocal work and improvisation, exploring individual and group energy. Boston Center for the Arts, 557 Tremont St., 2pm.

**Boston, MA** — The Boston Men's Center will be forming new groups, and accepting new members into older groups at Campus Free College, 14 Beacon St., at 2pm.

**Boston, MA** — A Holiday Rap Session will be held by Out Here for lesbian and gay youth, at 355 Boylston St., 12-2pm.

**Cambridge, MA** — Holiday Party for Clearspace. Bring \$3, or anything that our community center needs to furnish and equip their new office. 485 Mass. Ave., 8:30pm to 1am.

**NYC** — The Lesbian Mother Custody Center will be holding a benefit Disco at Medusa's Revenge, 10 Bleeker St., 9pm; \$3 donation requested.

## 17 sun

**Long Island, NY** — New Coalition for Human Rights of L.I. will hold a board meeting and benefit at 8 p.m. at Dockside in Lindenhurst. Everyone is welcome to

attend. \$3 donation. For more information call (516) 665-7373 or (516) 228-9838.

**Cambridge, MA** — Closet Space (WCAS 740 AM) The debut of Folkway's recording *Walls to Roses: Songs of Changing Men* by the Men's Music Collective. Guest Artists: Willie Sordili, Marcia Taylor and Kennie Arkin. 9 p.m.

**Lindenhurst, NY** — The Board of Directors of The New Coalition of Human Rights will hold its next meeting at 8pm. All are invited, entertainment provided after the meeting, and a \$3 donation requested to help defray the costs of the Coalition. At the Dock Side Lounge, 771 9th St. For information call (516) 665-7373 or (516) 226-9838.

**Cambridge, MA** — The Gay Academic Union of New England will hold its December meeting from 4 to 6pm in the Shepard Room of Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard.

## 18 mon

**Boston** — The Bar, 252 Boylston St. will hold a benefit for Jamaica Plain's Nazareth Children's Home at 9 p.m. Donation: one new toy, Includes free buffet.

## 27 wed

**Boston, MA** — WGBH-TV Channel 2, will present "Into the Morning: Willa Cather's America," at 7:30pm. The program will be repeated at the same time on December 30.

**Los Angeles** — Men Overcoming Sexism, the 5th Annual National Conference on Men and Masculinity will be held at UCLA through Dec. 31. To obtain registration forms and information call (213) 473-4229.

## 31 sun

**Holliston, MA** — Lambda of Middlesex will hold a New Year's Eve Party at 8pm. Call 429-6593 for more information.

## Greetings from Gay Community News

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